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~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~

25 May 1953

COUNTRY: Barbados

SUBJECT: Unionization of Oil Workers/Request  
for Wage Increase

DATE ACQUIRED BY SOURCE: 14 May 1953

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DATE OF INFORMATION: 4 May 1953 and earlier

SOURCE DESCRIPTION:

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1. The General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union has informed our representative in the Barbados that the native employees at the wildcat well drilling site have formed a union and that representatives of this union would like to discuss with our representative a proposal to increase wages by an average of 14% and also to decrease hours of work for certain categories.
2. In view of the fact that the native workers are among the best paid on the island, our representative felt that the request was not justified. Due to the fact that the men are not yet trained, many of the jobs are being handled by two men rather than one. Our representative has pointed out to us that our relationship with other employers on the island, who may be politically quite important, would be adversely affected should we agree to a wage scale change which was materially higher than the wage scale of other employers on the island.

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